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The story of a teen keg party that ended with two people being shot - paralyzing them - was played out before a Franklin County jury yesterday in the trial of the alleged shooter.

Kelsey "Skip" Ellis, 19, of 300 Dakota Ave. is charged with two counts of felonious assault. His defense attorney, Thomas Debacco, said yesterday in the opening day of the trial that the shooting was self-defense. During jury selection, Debacco indicated that Ellis was attacked by a mob that didn't want him at the party.

Ellis has pleaded not guilty to the charges before Common Pleas Judge Dale Crawford.

Assistant Prosecutors Doug Stead and Lorenzo Sanchez said Ellis crashed the April 1995 outdoor party, causing an argument. Ellis is accused of firing a 9mm pistol into the crowd, wounding two party-goers.

Charles Anthony Shaw and Edward Hilbert, both 21, are paralyzed from their injuries. They are expected to testify in the trial, which drew a large crowd yesterday from both the Shaw and Hilbert families and Ellis' family.

One witness, Nikki Sherman, 18, told jurors the party was in honor of her birthday. She said about 50 teens, mostly friends from Franklin Heights High School, rented a party room and purchased two kegs of beer to celebrate that afternoon. Later in the evening, they took the second keg to a wooded lot off Demorest Road to continue the party. She said Ellis and at least two of his friends arrived uninvited.

Sherman said she thought up to seven shots were fired.

"I had no idea there was a problem. It seemed like everybody was getting along," Sherman said. She was with Shaw near a campfire when the shooting occurred and said she didn't see who fired the shots.

Deputy John Righter of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office testified that he was stopped on Alkire Road by one of the partyers who told him there had been a shooting. Righter said he found the victims lying on their backs at the scene.